

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

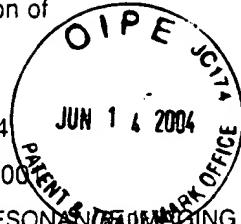
TAKAMORI et al

Serial No. 09/764,214

Atty Dkt. 160-352

C# M#

Group Art Unit: 2859



Examiner: L. Arana

Date: January 5, 2004

d: January 18, 2004

Title: MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING APPARATUS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

This is a response/amendment/letter in the above-identified application and includes an attachment which is hereby incorporated by reference and the signature below serves as the signature to the attachment in the absence of any other signature thereon.

 Correspondence Address Indication Form Attached.

Fees are attached as calculated below:

Total effective claims after amendment	12	minus highest number previously paid for	48	(at least 20) =	0	x	\$ 18.00	\$ 0.00
Independent claims after amendment	1	minus highest number previously paid for	17	(at least 3) =	0	x	\$ 86.00	\$ 0.00
If proper multiple dependent claims now added for first time, add \$290.00 (ignore improper)								\$ 0.00
Petition is hereby made to extend the current due date so as to cover the filing date of this paper and attachment(s) (\$110.00/1 month; \$420.00/2 months; \$950.00/3 months)								\$ 0.00
Terminal disclaimer enclosed, add \$ 110.00								\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> First/second submission after Final Rejection pursuant to 37 CFR 1.129(a) (\$770.00)								\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Please enter the previously unentered , filed								
<input type="checkbox"/> Submission attached								
							Subtotal	\$ 0.00
If "small entity," then enter half (1/2) of subtotal and subtract							-\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims "small entity" status. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement filed herewith								
Rule 56 Information Disclosure Statement Filing Fee (\$180.00)							\$	0.00
Assignment Recording Fee (\$40.00)							\$	0.00
Other:								0.00
							TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED	\$ 0.00

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140. A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

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NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.
By Atty: Larry S. Nixon, Reg. No. 25,640

Signature: Larry S. Nixon



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TAKAMORI et al

Atty. Ref.: 160-352; Confirmation No. 7421

Appl. No. 09/764,214

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For: MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING APPARATUS

* * * * *

January 5, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated 10/03/2003, please amend the above-identified application as shown below:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11, cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

12. (Currently Amended) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 1149, characterized in that said first antivibration members are discretely arranged below said gradient coils.

13. (Currently Amended) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 1149, characterized in that said first antivibration members are arranged below said gradient coil on front and rear sides.

14. (Currently Amended) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 1149, characterized in that said sealed vessel includes a liner, an outer wall also serving as an inner wall of said static magnetic field magnet, and covers covering a gap between said liner and said outer wall.

15. (Original) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 14, characterized in that said second antivibration member is placed between said liner and said cover.

16. (Original) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 15, characterized in that second antivibration member has a substantially annular shape having a diameter substantially equal to an inner diameter of said cover or said liner.

17. (Currently Amended) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim ~~149~~, characterized in that said second antivibration member has a substantially L-shaped cross-section.

18. (Currently Amended) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim ~~149~~, characterized in that said cover is jointed to said static magnetic field magnet via third antivibration members.

19. (Original) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 18, characterized in that said third antivibration member is made of a rubber-based material.

20. (Currently Amended) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim ~~149~~, characterized in that said cover is joined to said static magnetic field magnet with bolts, third antivibration members are inserted between said cover and said static magnetic field magnet, and fourth antivibration members are inserted between said cover and heads of the bolts.

21. (Currently Amended) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 4449, characterized in that said third and fourth antivibration members are made of a rubber-based material.

22. (Currently Amended) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus according to claim 4449, characterized in that said first and second antivibration members are made of a rubber-based material.

Claims 23-48 - cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

--49. (New) A magnetic resonance imaging apparatus comprising:
a static magnetic field generator for generating a static magnetic field in an imaging space;
a gradient magnetic field generator for generating a gradient magnetic field in said imaging space,
a partition wall for defining said imaging space,
a seal forming a vacuum space around said gradient magnetic field generator in cooperation with said static magnetic field generator and said partition wall,
a first antivibration member interposed between said static magnetic field generator and said gradient magnetic field generator for suppressing propagation of vibration; and

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a second antivibration member also providing sealing for holding a vacuum state in said vacuum space and located at at least one of regions including (a) that between said static magnetic field generator and said seal, and (b) that between said seal and said partition wall, for suppressing propagation of vibration.--

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner is reminded that applicant filed an additional Information Disclosure Statement on November 4, 2002 and yet a further Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on May 23, 2003. A copy of such Information Disclosure Statements together with Forms PTO-1449 are attached together with a copy of the post card receipts respectively demonstrating receipt by the USPTO of such material. Since no initialled copy of such two further PTO-1449 forms has yet been received, the Examiner is respectfully requested to investigate, to insure that such references have been fully considered and to return a fully initialled copy of both such PTO-1449 forms.

The rejection of claims 11-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Takamori et al '653 is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's attention is also drawn to the attached Amendment of Inventorship Under 37 C.F.R. §1.48(b). The Examiner's assistance is requested to insure that only the three inventors Takamori, Iinuma and Uosaki are hereafter named as inventors in this present application.

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Non elected claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and elected claim 11 has been cancelled similarly in favor of new claim 49 (from which all other pending claims 12-22 now depend either directly or indirectly).

New independent claim 49 requires a second antivibration member which both suppresses propagation of vibration and also provides sealing for holding a vacuum state.

Takamori '653 does not disclose such a second anti-vibration member. In particular, members 100 and 40A do not correspond to the second anti-vibration member because members 100 and 40A do not provide any sealing function -- and are not disposed between members 23 and 24.

Accordingly, all outstanding grounds of rejection are now believed to have been mooted thus leaving this entire application in allowable condition. A formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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